

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting – Conference Call
November 28, 2005**

MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman Marc Gibbs called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. with Commissioners Irby, Watts, McDermott, Wright, and Wheeler, present.

The Director was present and staff in Boise included Terry Mansfield, Jim Unsworth, Brad Compton, Steve Nadeau, Dallas Burkhalter, and Jim Lau. Reporters for the *Idaho Statesman* and KBCI Channel 2 in Boise were also present.

Cal Groen, Clearwater Regional Supervisor, joined the call with Eric Barker, from the Lewiston Tribune.

Bonus Point System

Commissioners Wheeler and Wright requested that the Commission subcommittee on bonus points be allowed to meet again and report to the full Commission at the January meeting with a plan regarding a bonus point system. The subcommittee, comprised of Commissioners Power, Wright, and Wheeler did not feel that the action taken at the Jerome meeting on November 17-18 reflected the intent of the subcommittee.

Commissioner Wright asked staff to provide additional information to the subcommittee regarding the preference point plan suggested by Brad Compton, State Big Game Manager, at the November meeting including how such a plan would affect drawing odds.

Commissioner Power joined the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Commission Wheeler commented that the subcommittee felt they should have provided better guidance to the Commission. They were not satisfied with their effort and feel they can do a better job of bringing more and better information to the Commission.

Commissioner Watts commented that there was a motion at the last meeting, and a new motion would be in order.

The Director noted that the motion that passed postponed a vote on any bonus or preference point plan until the January meeting and directed staff to bring back proposed rules at that meeting. A notice of proposed rule making will be prepared for the January meeting.

Commissioner Watts noted that the motion passed at the last meeting was specific to the two-year waiting period and the increased odds the second year. Motion 05-69 from the November meeting was read to the Commission.

05-73 Commissioner Wright moved and Commissioner Wheeler seconded a motion **THAT STAFF WORK ON A PREFERENCE POINT SYSTEM BE POSTPONED PENDING FURTHER EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION BY THE PREFERENCE POINT SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Commissioner McDermott clarified that the motion Commissioner Watts made at the November 17 meeting was for a non-funded bonus point option. The staff work would have been done to see what the public preference was for a non-funded option. Commissioner Watts indicated that was the correct interpretation, but the current motion on the floor would override his motion.

The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

The preference point subcommittee will discuss dates to meet and pursue their work.

Wolf Management

Commissioners requested that staff arrange meetings before the January 11-13 meeting with Commissioners to go over the 10(j) rule and what it specifically allows.

Commissioner Wheeler commented that the Commission needs a good understanding of the 10(j) and the proposal and understand it well enough to be able to handle questions at the Legislature and from the public and media. He is interested in seeing how the 10(j) rule dovetails with the Department's proposal for wolf management and ensure that the Department and Commission are on same page on the issue.

The Director indicated that Jim Unsworth, Brad Compton, and he would meet with the Office of Species Conservation to go over the full range of options under 10(j).

Commissioner Wright commented that he would like to see a re-analysis of the Clearwater ungulate population. He requested a copy of the complete study including data on mortality in that region over the last eight years.

The Director commented that the data analysis is still in draft form. Staff will go through it with the Commission and make any revisions necessary prior to making it public. He reminded the Commission that the Department is still within the timeline articulated regarding wolf management.

Commissioner Watts recommended that staff provide a position paper with talking points on the 10(j).

Chairman Gibbs instructed staff to hold meetings with Commissioners by mid-December and then schedule a follow-up conference call.

Commissioner Wheeler suggested staff provide a copy of the ESA for the Commissioners. Commissioner Wright asked staff to bring the ungulate study draft to the small group meetings.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.